

MEMORANDUM

NSS, DOS Reviews Completed.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

4804-X

ACTION

SECRET / SENSITIVE

August 29, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MR. KISSINGER

MORI C05125659 Pgs 2-12

FROM:

WILLIAM L. STEARMAN *WLS*

SUBJECT:

French Offer to Mediate Cambodian Question

Ambassador Swank has sent you a message reporting a Cambodian request for U. S. guidance on an unofficial French offer to mediate the Cambodian question (Tab B). While a French initiative would have little chance of success, we probably should not discourage the GKR from accepting this offer. A reply to Swank along these lines is at Tab A. 25X1

SECRET / SENSITIVE

XGDS 5B(2)

SECRET/SENSITIVE

2

25X1 On August 25, Boret told Swank of "Pompidou's" unofficial offer and said he regarded this as a serious initiative. He added, however, that before acting on it, the High Council wanted to know the U. S. reaction and whether the French initiative would prejudice any negotiations we have in train. Swank has asked us how he should reply.

Hummel and Stearns (Sullivan's replacement) do not believe we should discourage GKR acceptance of the French offer, and I agree.

25X1 . At this point, the French might be impressed that the FANK hasn't disintegrated -- as they probably anticipated. Our State colleagues believe the French might at least succeed in engaging Sihanouk in a sensible review of the situation and could have some influence with the Chinese. In any case, they see no harm in the French trying -- as long as it is not at our behest. If the French are acting on behalf of the GKR, this would be in line with our policy of encouraging negotiations between the Khmer parties.

Your reply to Swank (Tab A) instructs him to tell the Cambodians that we have no problems with their accepting the French offer, but that they should not tell the French we were consulted. It also advises the Cambodians to exude confidence when they follow up on this offer.

RECOMMENDATION:Approve ☒Disapprove ☐SECRET/SENSITIVE

25X1

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25X1

TO: AMBASSADOR SWANK
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER
REFERENCE: Phnom Penh 28572

1. In reply to points raised by Boret in reftel, you may tell him that we have no problems with GKR acceptance of French offer to mediate; however, the French must not repeat not be told that U. S. was consulted in this matter. This must be understood as a French effort to mediate between the Khmer parties without U. S. involvement.
2. You should stress to the Khmer the importance of convincing the French that the GKR is confident of its ability to survive. While we have little hope that the French can alter the other side's uncompromising stand, perhaps they might help erode Communist confidence in an early and easy victory in Cambodia.
3. If the French follow through on their offer, we would appreciate the GKR's keeping us informed of developments and letting us know if they need our advice or assistance.

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PHNOM PENH 28572, 26 August 1973

"TO: DR. KISSINGER

FROM: AMBASSADOR SWANK

25X1

"FOREIGN MINISTER LONG BORET GAVE ME 25 AUGUST AN ACCOUNT OF THE POMPIDOU UNOFFICIAL OFFER TO THE GKR TO MEDIATE THE CAMBODIAN QUESTION (REFERENCE, PARAS 5 AND 7) CLOSELY PARALLELING THE SPECIAL REPORTING FACILITY ACCOUNT. HE SAID HE REGARDS THIS INITIATIVE AS SERIOUS, AND BEFORE THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL ACTS UPON IT THE GKR DESIRES TO KNOW (A) THE REACTION OF THE USG AND (B) WHETHER AUTHORIZING THE FRENCH TO PROCEED WITH THE EFFORT WILL PREJUDICE ANY NEGOTIATIONS WE HAVE IN TRAIN.

"I PROMISED HIM AN EARLY REPLY AND WILL APPRECIATE YOUR ADVICE SOONEST IN THIS OR ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE CHANNEL. I HAVE EMPLOYED THIS CHANNEL BECAUSE OF THE RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON DISSEMINATION OF THE REFERENCE."

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